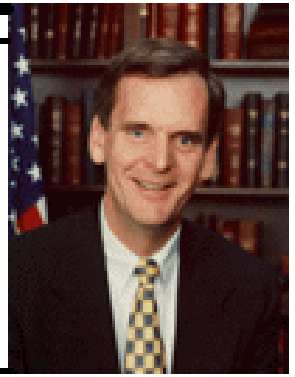

NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, January 8, 2002

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GREGG PARTICIPATES IN NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY AT WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON— U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, incoming Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, today participated in the White House ceremony marking the one year anniversary of the No Child Left Behind Act. The new law couples the most significant reforms to the education system in decades with historic increases in federal funding while ensuring that every child has access to the best education available.

Senator Gregg commented, “Passage of this landmark legislation was the result of serious collaboration, months of in-depth analysis and bipartisan negotiation. The final product significantly improves accountability and provides new resources, options and information to children and their parents, enabling them to immediately reap the greatest possible benefit from America’s education system.

“Unfortunately, it appears that some are claiming that there is not enough money to implement the reforms in the new law. It is simply disingenuous for some to suggest that the federal government is under funding education. It is a fact that last year’s funding increases for education tied to the No Child Left Behind Act were the largest in history. Over the last five years, federal funding for education has increased two times faster than the rate of growth of all federal spending, faster than support for health and social services programs and nearly three times faster than the defense budget.

“In light of the fact that No Child Left Behind was coupled with the largest funding increases for education programs in history, it is clear that those who argue that there is not enough money are not only wrong, they are using incorrect claims about under funding education as an excuse to oppose education reform and to support the same status quo system that has been failing so many of our children, but most especially disadvantaged children.

“As we enter the second year of the law, I look forward to working with parents, taxpayers and educators across America, my colleagues in the Senate and on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and interested groups around the country to ensure effective, timely and positive implementation of this law that is so important to every child.”

Senator Gregg, in his capacity as former Ranking Member of the Senate HELP Committee, was one of the four Senate and House negotiators who worked with the Administration to craft the bipartisan, bicameral legislation.

